

Newbury Energy Advisory Committee, January 28, 2019.

Elisa Grammer, Rick Parker, Dougan Sherwood, Liz Callahan, Chip Wallace.
6pm Lobby of the 1910 Building, 381 Main Street, West Newbury, MA

Agenda:

Next step on microgrid project.

Municipal vulnerability preparedness.

EV charging.

Microgrid implementation.

Elisa noted that the emergency response plan for Seabrook calls for sheltering in place in some scenarios. A microgrid project could help enable the people in senior housing to shelter in place if needed.

The microgrid report outlined the implementation plan as: 1. Connect emergency generator to all 4 site properties. 2. Enable islanding (reconfigure the cabling layout from the utility connection to the meters). 3. Make the solar project happen.

Advisian suggested to Rick that we contact National Grid ourselves to let them know what we want to do and get their initial reaction. Rick will follow up.

Angus asked last week whether there are any grants available or will we need to spend local funds to engage Advisian further? He may want to do competitive bidding even if not required by law. Rick will ask Advisian for a rough cost estimate to implement the next steps. There are no grants identified at this time to pay for the next round of work.

The deadline to submit town meeting articles for the spring is February 13. Rick proposes defining an article for the islanding and generator phases.. A second article possibility is to enable the solar project. That is, hire someone to figure out the legal arrangements: how can the town take the power given its existing electricity purchasing arrangements? What would happen during an outage? Can a community solar concept enable the required investment?

Action: further explain proposals to selectmen and finance committee. Rick proposes a meeting on Friday for him and Liz with Angus, then later with the selectmen. Chip agreed to draft a brief document outlining the recommended plans and options.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness. Liz and Rick spoke recently with Joe Cosgrove at MVPC. The main work for the application is getting letters of support from the selectmen and town department heads. The town needs to provide assurance that it is committed to the project, that key people will attend meetings and spend the time (120-200 hours total) needed to successfully complete the analysis.

Elisa reminds us that CPC affordable housing money could be a funding source.

Committee members volunteered to be a core team to get work done, for instance writing annual reports. However there needs to be a definition of town staff time requirements, and buy in from the selectmen.

Rick will contact Advisian about a ballpark cost estimate for next steps, and set up a Friday meeting with Angus.

New business. Rick suggests we should survey residents about how they perceive their personal vulnerability to extreme weather events or power disruptions, to help win support for a microgrid project.

EV charging. Chip suggested that before we decide to pursue an EV project, we wait and see the town manager's reaction to the other two programs . EV charging would appear to be a simpler and more easily achievable project than the two described above.

Minutes from last meeting. Elisa proposes one change related to information on the emergency generator contract. She will make the change and post the revised minutes on the committee website.

Next meeting Feb 11 at 6:30 pm.